

Gone, Baby, Gone (novel)

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For the film based on the book, see [Gone Baby Gone](#).



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Gone, Baby, Gone is a 1998 [detective novel](#) by American writer [Dennis Lehane](#), his fourth in his series featuring Boston [private investigators](#) Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro. In 2007 a [film adaptation of the same name](#) was released, directed by [Ben Affleck](#).

Plot

[\[edit source \]](#)

Boston-based lovers and **private investigators** Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro are hired by a woman to look into the case of her niece, Amanda McCready, whose disappearance has become an important local news story. They take the case despite the seeming reluctance of the girl's uncle, Lionel. During the investigation they quickly come to the conclusion that Amanda's mother, Helene, who has been prominently featured in the news stories about the case, is a degenerate and neglectful parent. At the time of Amanda's disappearance, Helene had left her alone for several hours while she partied at a local **dive bar**. In another incident, revealed later, Helene had once left her daughter unsupervised on the beach for several hours, resulting in the girl getting a terrible sunburn. While Helene has been pleading with the public for her daughter's return, in private she often seems more concerned about her own life and the possible benefit the publicity might have on it. In perhaps the most irresponsible act of parenting, Patrick and Angie discover that Helene had taken Amanda along while she and her then boyfriend Skinny Ray stole two hundred thousand dollars from men working for the imprisoned drug dealer Cheese.

Patrick and Angie begin working on the case with police officers Remy Broussard and Nick "Poole" Raftopoulos, members of the [Boston Police Department](#)'s CAC (Crimes Against Children) Division. In investigating the missing money from Helene and Ray's drug deal, Patrick, Angie, Broussard, and Poole find the money along with two dead bodies, acquaintances of Helene's from when the money was originally stolen. The police receive an apparent ransom demand calling for a meetup at the [Quincy Quarries](#) to exchange the money for the girl. Under cover of darkness and with the area surrounded by police, Angie, Patrick, Poole, and Remy arrive at the quarry. Before they can meet the kidnappers, a confused gun battle breaks out, resulting in the death of a couple of gangsters working for Cheese and the disappearance of the ransom money. Angie finds Amanda's favorite doll, which had been taken along with her, in the water of the quarry, and they conclude that the little girl was likely thrown in and died.

Months later, Patrick crosses paths with Helene and sees her to be emotionally wrought and reeling from Amanda's death. Patrick later learns that Remy had known Lionel, Helene's brother, before Amanda's disappearance. Questioning Lionel with the aid of [Justice Department](#) agent Ryerson, Patrick and Angie discover that the whole kidnapping had been orchestrated at Lionel's behest in order to get Amanda away from Helene's neglectful care. Remy and another policeman, Pasquale, disguised as burglars, stage a holdup of the bar where Patrick, Angie, and Lionel are meeting. After it becomes clear to Patrick that the two are there to kill Lionel and end the investigation into Pasquale dead, Lionel and Ryerson grievously wounded, and Remy fleeing on foot. Patrick gives chase to Remy, firing a melee. After refusing medical help and thereby ensuring his imminent death (and avoiding imprisonment for his role during the novel), Remy confesses to Patrick that he is part of a small ring of cops who take children from abusive and uncaring competent parents. The first child had been his own son, who he had found as an infant malnourished and abandoned by a mother so uninterested in his welfare that she had never filed a missing persons report after Remy took him. Remy fled from Helene's care to ensure her proper upbringing. To protect Amanda, he refuses to tell Patrick of her whereabouts until that Patrick and Poole's captain, Doyle, had taken custody of Amanda. Patrick, Angie, and two allied Boston cops (O'Donnell and the captain's forest home where they discover Amanda McCready, apparently happy and well cared for by Doyle and Devin not to reveal Amanda's whereabouts, insisting that she's with a loving family now. Angie and Patrick argue about supporting the decision to call the authorities to the house and reveal Lionel, Remy, and Doyle's scheme. Amanda is a neglected adopted child are never seen again, gone, Patrick assumes, with the two hundred thousand dollars from the botched kidnapping leaves Patrick. Patrick later stops by the McCready household to find Amanda listlessly watching TV as Helene gets into a fight with a neighbor, a sign that, after everything, nothing has changed.

Adaptations

[\[edit source \]](#)

- *Gone Baby Gone* (2007), film directed by Ben Affleck
- *Gone Baby Gone* (2018), telefilm directed by Phillip Noyce

External links

[\[edit source \]](#)

- *Gone, Baby, Gone* at IMDb

V T E

Dennis Lehane

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Bibliography	Kenzie-Gennaro novels	<i>A Drink Before the War</i> (1994) · <i>Darkness, Take My Hand</i> (1996) · <i>Sacred</i> (1997) · <i>Gone, Baby, Gone</i> (1998) · <i>Prayers for Rain</i> (1999) · <i>Moonlight Mile</i> (2010)
	Coughlin novels	<i>The Given Day</i> (2008) · <i>Live by Night</i> (2012) · <i>World Gone By</i> (2015)
	Other works	<i>Mystic River</i> (2001) · <i>Shutter Island</i> (2003) · <i>Coronado: Stories</i> (2006) · <i>The Drop</i> (2014) · <i>Since We Fell</i> (2017)
Filmography	Adaptations	<i>Mystic River</i> (2003) · <i>Gone Baby Gone</i> (2007) · <i>Shutter Island</i> (2010) · <i>The Drop</i> (2014) · <i>Live by Night</i> (2016)
	Other	<i>The Wire</i> ("Dead Soldiers" · "Refugees" · "Clarifications") · <i>Boardwalk Empire</i> ("Resignation") · <i>Mr. Mercedes</i> ("Gods Who Fall" · "People in the Rain" · "Willow Lake" · "Jibber-Jibber Chicken Dinner" · "Missed You" · "Fell On Black Days" · "Nobody Puts Brady in a Crestmore" · "Walk Like a Man") · <i>The Outsider</i> ("In the Pines, In the Pines" · "Tigers and Bears")

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